

SENATE BILL 756

By Beavers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-12-109, relative to payment of election commission expenses.

WHEREAS, the general assembly recognizes that the utmost importance in the duties and responsibilities of county election commissioners throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the current laws of Tennessee require the county to fund the expenses needed for the county election commissions to discharge the duties of the office; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the general assembly that this act clarify the necessity, the requirement, and the statutory responsibility of the county to fund all county election commission expenses, unless the expense falls under a statutory exception; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-12-109, is amended by deleting subdivision (a) in its entirety, and substituting instead the following:

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, it is the responsibility of the county to fund the operations of its election commission, including but not limited to compensation of its employees and election officials, expenses incurred in holding elections, and all fees incurred due to the filing or defense of a lawsuit. If a county fails to appropriate funds sufficient to pay expenses that are reasonably necessary for the discharge of the statutorily mandated duties of its county election commission, such commission may petition the chancery court of the county in which such election commission is located to compel the appropriation of such funds.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.

